

This book is

## **A TULSA**

### **DISTRICT SCRAPBOOK,**

a memory book of some of the experiences and adventures of a special group of people who engaged, over 50 years, in a special mission. These are the people of the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

They began work 50 years after the Oklahoma land run of 1889 first opened the region to white settlement. A second half-century later, their Tulsa District celebrates, as of July 1, 1989, the golden-age mark.

These Tulsa District employees have believed in their work, with the support of believers and optimists, and in the face of detractors and critics. They have sometimes wavered, occasionally stumbled; but when they are good, they are excellent. And, they have changed forever the lands of this region and the lives of its people.

They have managed a workload that mushroomed from \$11 million in 1939 to more than \$223 million in 1988.

They have produced an estimated \$2 billion in military products and services, mobilized for one world war and several smaller conflicts, and maintained a stable, combat-ready force of military engineers prepared for quick mobilization when needed.

They have produced an estimated \$1.6 billion in civil works projects, focused around water resources development. Every civil works dollar paid for the Corps' efforts over the past 50 years has returned exponentially burgeoning benefits throughout the region. The benefits include water-borne navigation, flood control, hydropower, expanded water supply, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife management, and water quality enhancement. Not to mention a resulting boost to the region's economy and private sector jobs.

As they round the half-century mark, these Corps-men and Corps-women manage a half-million surface acres in water resources and another half-million in related land resources.

They regulate and reform, educate and inform.

They are white, black, red, brown, and yellow; male and female, married and single, young and old. They are engineers and secretaries, biologists and park rangers, lawyers and technicians; but above all, they are professionals.

This is their scrapbook. It opens with an overview map and an illustrated timeline that moves quickly over some high points of the Tulsa District history. The story then flashes back to the days when early man discovered the waterways of this region and used them to sustain and enhance life. It traces the region and the Tulsa District through developing the inland waterway that critics said couldn't be done. It follows constructing dozens of major lakes and projects, through wars and rumors of wars, into today's concerns over protecting the environment and curtailing federal spending.

This is their story, and of course there's far more to it than you'll find here.

After all, 50 years has come and gone, and their story has just begun.



***Tulsa workers unfurl the colors, above, and wear the official Corps' crest, below. The Corps' modest motto, "Essayons," means "Let us try."***

